

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed July 15, 2005. A one-month extension petition is enclosed. With the present amendment, applicants have amended claims 31-38, 41-44, 52-56, 58, 63, 68-70 and 72 and cancelled claims 47-51 and 71. Thus, the claims that remain in this application are claims 31-46, 52-70 and 72, as amended.

The Examiner has rejected all of the independent claims, except for independent claims 35 and 53, as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Browne et al. ("Browne") in view of Lenihan et al. ("Lenihan") and further in view of newly-cited U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0208482 to Suga et al. ("Suga"). Independent claims 35 and 53 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Browne in view of Suga. The remaining dependent claims were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over various combinations of Browne, Lenihan, Suga and Yuen.

Applicants have now amended the claims in a manner believed to present patentable claims over the cited prior art. As discussed in more detail below, the cited prior art, even if combined in a manner as proposed by the Examiner, does not teach, suggest or disclose the inventions of the present claims.

Independent Claims 31, 35, 41, 53, 68 and 69

The proposed combination of the prior art fails to teach, suggest or disclose all claim limitations of independent claims 31, 35, 41, 53, 68 and 69. These claims call for an external reproducing apparatus having both analog and digital recording and reproducing modes and a display processing circuit or display step that is based on the reproduction mode of the external reproducing apparatus.

In claims 41 and 69, when the external recording apparatus is in the analog recording mode, the display processing circuit or display step prevents the display of the

received digital broadcasting signal only during the displaying of the control panel information.

In claims 31 and 68, when the external recording apparatus is in the analog reproducing mode, the display processing circuit or step prevents the display of the received digital broadcasting signal to the user, and when the external recording apparatus is in the analog recording mode, the display processing circuit or display step prevents the display of the received digital broadcasting signal only during the displaying of the control panel information.

In claims 35 and 53, an alarm message, such as that a new station cannot be selected by the user during digital recording, is displayed during a recording mode of the external reproducing apparatus showing that a recording mode of a program recorded on a recording medium loaded in the external reproducing apparatus indicates an analog recording or a digital recording.

None of these claimed features are disclosed or suggested in the proposed combination of prior art since the references are not concerned with the problem of preventing user confusion about functions that can or cannot be performed by a receiving apparatus connected to an external recording apparatus via a digital interface when the external recording apparatus is in an analog or digital recording mode. This problem, however, is addressed by the presently claimed invention as shown, for instance, in Figure 4A, which depicts in summary table form that an alarm (indicated by the "O") will be displayed, and a station cannot be selected (indicated by the "x"), when the VCR is in an analog recording mode (such as a stop, recording pause or record mode) and the control panel is displayed.

Independent Claims 52, 58, 63 and 72

The proposed combination of the prior art also fails to teach, suggest or disclose all of the claim limitations of

independent claims 52, 58, 63 and 72. The purported combination of the prior art lacks a display processing circuit or displaying step such that when the digital signal reproduced by the reproducing apparatus is not able to be decoded, a message is displayed showing that the program recorded on the recording medium loaded in the external reproducing apparatus was recorded in a recording or compression mode in which the digital signal cannot be decoded. This claimed feature is designed to prevent user confusion when, for example, a tape cassette of a different specification or a digital video signal of a system other than a standard compression format (such as, e.g., MPEG2) has been loaded into the external reproducing apparatus and is reproduced. As noted in the present application:

According to the invention, in the case where the tape cassette in which the transport stream of different specifications or the digital video signal of a system other than the MPEG2 system has been recorded is loaded into the digital video cassette recording/reproducing apparatus 2 and reproduced, an alarm message of "Different system. Cannot be displayed." is displayed. As mentioned above, when the tape cassette which cannot be correctly reproduced is reproduced, the alarm message is displayed on the reproduction picture plane. Therefore, the user can correctly recognize the causes by which the reproduction picture plane cannot be displayed, so that he can take a necessary countermeasure such as to select the proper input switching or the like.

(Application at p. 53-54.)

Simply providing information about the type of recording (e.g., Rec1, Rec2, Rec3) as disclosed in Suga is not a teaching or suggestion of displaying an error type message when the digital recording cannot be decoded in the first instance. Suga does not teach or suggest this feature because Suga is concerned with a user examining the readable files with the different configuration data to compare the different types of

photographic images recorded under different configurations, and is not concerned with preventing user confusion by displaying an alarm message when a digital recording, received through a digital interface, is of a non-decodable format.

The Remaining Claims

All of the remaining dependent claims either incorporate additional features not disclosed, taught or suggested by the prior art and depend from independent claims which are believed to be patentable over the prior art as indicated above.

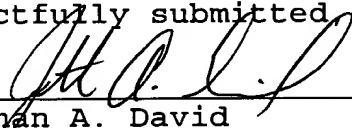
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: November 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted

By 
Jonathan A. David
Registration No.: 36,494
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicants